

Policy Consensus Initiative Meetings & Workshops

Thursday, May 20, 2004

“New Strategies for Changing Times,”
A Workshop for State Public Policy Programs

State public policy dispute resolution programs are invited to a day-long workshop focused on how DR programs can persevere and even grow during difficult financial times. The PCI- and NPCC- sponsored workshop will be held **Thursday, May 20**—the day preceding ACR’s Environment/Public Policy Conference on May 21 and 22.

The workshop will cover three important topical areas:

-Employing an Issues Strategy: A hands-on session describing how to employ issue-focused strategies to advance the use of collaboration in states. As an example of this approach, the Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium (FCRC) launched a transportation initiative a number of years ago. According to Bob Jones, FCRC’s Executive Director, “The goal of the initiative is to assist public and private entities in using collaborative planning, facilitated sessions, mediation and other consensus building tools to both make and successfully implement public decisions on transportation.” Can this kind of approach work for your program?

-Developing University-Based Public Service Consensus Centers: As we look around the country, university-based public policy dispute resolution (PPDR) centers, for the most part, seem to be surviving, and some are thriving. In recent discussions about the state of state programs, the PCI Board noted that their mission helps fulfill the university’s overall mission of community outreach. They also noted that many university centers bear the names of former state political leaders—Hatfield, Andrus, etc., and those centers often serve as non-partisan forums for addressing controversial issues. We want to discuss the potential for expanding our network to include these public service centers, and whether university based PPDR programs can become both convening and mediating centers.

-Getting Smart about Communications: Many of you have requested help with strategic communication. Eric Brown, Communications Director at the Hewlett Foundation will lead this session, describing a straightforward approach to developing and delivering your message. Eric has a background as a political media consultant and former press secretary and speechwriter for a member of Congress.